

April 2019

Letter to the Editor [Jody Mitchell]

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Letters to the Editor

My Fellow Citizens: Please be careful how you are influenced by the article in this past Sunday's Cedar Rapids Gazette. Perhaps time will bear out that Agriprocessors will become an ethical employer, have a plant that is safe and modern, will not exploit workers, and will become good citizens in Postville.

Just because repentance and reconciliation is offered, the fact that laws were broken in the past does not change. Does the rapist or murdered get their crimes forgiven if they promise they will never do it again?

The headline said "Changed Company?" Does that imply forgiven forged documentation, or wages below federal minimum, or a used car sales scam? (By the way, did they find that third suspect being sought and did they look in Israel?)

I am among the skeptics like the Reverend Ouderkirk. First we hear denials of the allegations. Now a few weeks later it's "we won't do it any more!" I'm of the opinion, "Show me over the long haul."

Another interesting point. Where have the offers for assistance been from the local Jewish community? We have the wives and children of detained workers going hungry and being in limbo until October. As the article in the Gazette states, "Improved conditions at Agriprocessors come too late to help the hundreds of workers facing deportations at the end of a prison term." The Hispanic Ministry group is pleading for food and essentials. So is the local food pantry.

Concerned citizens should give serious thought to joining The March this coming Sunday. A peaceful statement of the tragedy that our town has endured is American. Attendance needs to be drawn to support immigration reform and to show respect for human rights and dignity of victims of a bad system.

Ken Weston
Postville

(Editor's Note: The letter below was originally published in the Decorah Newspaper and opening paragraph refers to an editorial written by Decorah editor, Rick Fromm.)
July 15, 2008

Dear Editor,
I want to thank Editor Rick Fromm for his strong editorial Thursday, July 10, condemning the exploitation of workers at Agriprocessors in Postville. The Postville raid by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has created a humanitarian crisis of epic and long-lasting proportions and raises serious questions about the Bush administration's continued efforts to undermine constitutional protections in America.

Besides shattering the lives of a substantial percentage of Postville's population, traumatizing children (some of them US citizens) whose parents were whisked away, as well as the children of non-immigrant families whose many friends suddenly disappeared, the raid has left in its wake an enormous economic

burden. Those charged but released with ankle-bracelet monitoring devices, mostly women, can neither work nor leave the country so have no means of support. Family members of those in jail are left without financial resources. The Postville Food Pantry is feeding up to 100 people a day, and many volunteers from around the region have pitched in to help cover legal, health, and living expenses for those affected by the raid.

Furthermore, the economic impact reaches into the pocketbook of every taxpayer. Besides the immense cost of the raid itself, conducted by some 900 agents, and all those involved in subsequent legal proceedings, including prosecutors, judges, and 26 federal translators, 130 man-years of taxpayer-paid prison time have been handed down in prosecuting several hundred impoverished immigrants on a bogus charge.

That these immigrants were here illegally is not in dispute, but that is not what they are serving prison time for. 390 were arrested, 360 held for prosecution. Of the 390, only 5 had any previous criminal record. They were charged with "aggravated identity theft," a crime which brings a mandatory 5-year prison sentence, but if they agreed to plead guilty to "knowingly using a false social security number," their time would be reduced to 5 months, after which they would be deported without an immigration hearing. ICE, a branch of the Department of Homeland Security, established a "fast track" proceedings which essentially forced a mass acceptance of this guilty plea, even though the vast majority of these immigrants don't even know what a social security number is. They were simply provided one by their employer! Furthermore, most of the SS numbers were "vacated" rather than stolen numbers. Only one out of the total turned out to actually happen to coincide with a reported identity theft, rendering the charge legally indefensible..

The Iowa ACLU has condemned these mass convictions as violations of a number of constitutional protections guaranteed the accused, one of which was their requirement under the guilty plea to wave their right to an immigration hearing. It is important to remember that 290 of those arrested are Guatemalans, mostly indigenous Mayans who suffered untold horrors at the hands of death squads in the mountains of Guatemala not long ago. It will now not be known whether any of the detainees will be further endangered by their mandatory deportation.

Perhaps the most worrisome detail hidden from public view, however, is the extent to which this raid, clearly meant to be a trail run for more to come, is a serious intrusion of the executive

branch into the affairs of the judiciary. According to Erik Camayd-Freixas, Ph.D. from Florida International University who worked as a federal translator throughout the legal proceedings in this case, the way the legal case against the detainees was fast-tracked en-masse tied the hands of both defense lawyers and judges in such a way that options to challenge a bogus charge and the waiving of important rights was simply not possible, including their 5th amendment right to a grand jury indictment on a felony charge. This is simply another egregious example of the Department of Homeland Security overstepping the balance of powers guaranteed by the constitution.

On July 27 a march will be held in Postville in support of those effected by the raid and will include members of Jewish groups in Minneapolis. Jewish leaders there have reacted strongly to the exploitation of workers at Agriprocessors and are seriously questioning the way in which kosher meat is processed. The raid has apparently had little effect upon the policies of the Postville plant. According to Paul Real, Director of Hispanic Ministries at St. Bridget's Church in Postville, Agriprocessors imported three groups of new employees since the raid in May, but conditions are such that not a single person remains.

Exploitation of illegal immigrants goes far beyond Postville. A documentary entitled the The Cruellest Cuts, recently aired on PBS, covered a 22-month investigation by the Charlotte Observer that reveals atrocities perpetuated by some of the largest poultry processors in the Carolinas where most of the nation's chickens come from. Poor, underpaid workers, 80 to 90 percent Hispanic and most illegal, some 22,000 in the Carolinas alone who routinely make 20,000 cutting motions per shift, sustain frequent injuries, yet employers often refuse workers medical treatment and falsify safety records in order to avoid plant inspections. OSHA routinely turns a blind eye to these violations. This exploitation of mostly illegal immigrants, widespread in the meat packing industry, is reminiscent of the problems in agriculture highlighted by farm worker organizer Cesar Chavez back in the '60s, few of which have been solved today. If anyone reading this article worries about the rising cost of food, think what food would cost if we did not have what amounts to a system of indentured servitude getting the food to your table.

And if you are worried that illegal immigrants cost Americans jobs, consider how much those same immigrants actually pay us to work in America. The Social Security Agency maintains an "earnings suspense file" which records the payroll taxes withheld from those illegal (no-match) social se-

curity numbers which were the centerpiece of the Postville raid. That money, all of which goes into the general SSA fund, now exceeds \$600 billion. The SSA itself estimates that illegal workers, who themselves will never receive benefits, are subsidizing the retirement of legal residents to the tune of \$8.9 billion per year.

Another important indicator of just how important immigrants, both legal and illegal, are to the American economy is the amount of "remittances" from immigrants and foreign workers sent home to support families in their countries of origin. Just from 2006 to 2007, these remittances rose by 16% to \$71.5 billion. This is our largest economic engagement with developing countries, according to the Index of Global Philanthropy 2008, published by the Hudson Institute. Government aid only totals 12% at \$23.5 billion, exceeded by private philanthropy, 18% at

\$34.8 billion. Even private investment, 32% at \$62.3 billion, falls short of the extra money hard-working immigrants manage to spare for their families at home.

It is clearly time we take honest stock of whose backs our American lifestyle fundamentally rests upon. Perhaps we should follow the lead of Minneapolis Jews investigating their kosher meat plant and start asking serious questions about the cheap chicken we buy at Walmart, and hold our representatives accountable to a process of real and humane immigration reform. The current inhumanity touches us all.

Sincerely,
David Cavnarano
Decorah

To the Editor:
July 15, 2008

The last city council meeting was in the toilet, so to speak. To make a long story short, the Postville Child-care removed the doors in

the bathrooms and replaced them with curtains to avoid pinched fingers and future injuries. Other childcares are doing this and the USDA blessed this. Couldn't this issue have been settled privately, perhaps behind closed doors or curtains, which ever you prefer? Did we really need to consult our city attorney regarding this issue? No one in the room commented on the child-care for the excellent job that they are doing. Not one mention was made of the \$850,000 grant award that will benefit the childcare. I personally toured the childcare last week with various representatives of Allamakee Economic Development and was so proud of our facility. People were commenting that they wish they lived here so that they could bring their children here.

Congratulations to the school, childcare, and the YMCA for their grand award. Without the city,

community, and the county this award could not have been possible. My point is: the agenda item should have been about celebration, not toilet doors.

Sincerely,
Christina Drahos

To the Editor:

This is in response to your article titled Faith leaders speak out on poor treatment of Immigrant workers here and in flood recovery. I am a resident of Cedar Rapids and I am appalled at this article for many reasons. Comparing the raid in Postville to the devastating floods here in Cedar Rapids is comparing apples to oranges. The raid in Postville was good. Those people are not citizens of the United States, they were breaking the law. The residents of Cedar Rapids were US citizens who were born, worked, paid taxes and owned homes.


Letter to the Editor
CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

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Riley's supplies	117.88	Storey Kenworthy supplies	282.46
Rite Price Office supplies	203.57	Superior Welding Supply fire ext. & recharge	107.23
Mary Severson notary	30.00	Thill Track & Tractor Service parts	419.95
DuWayne Snitker dog care	140.00	Torkelson's of Waukon parts	12.00
Solutions annual agreement	33,420.00	Village Farm & Home bridge materials	747.94
Stephens-Peck, Inc supplies	65.00	Waste Mgmt garbage	196.52
Town & Country Sanitation dumpster	84.37	Waukon Imp parts/equip	12,182.70
Tri State Bus Mach maint	107.38	Waukon Tire Center repair	15.00
Turf N Timber oil	19.48	Gary Weymiller shale/flood repair	1,910.00
US Cellular cell phone	110.95	Roger Weymiller shale/flood repair	1,404.00
UPS shipping	13.58	Whelen Engineering repair	70.00
Village Farm & Home tires	50.00	Ziegler blades/parts	10,364.26
Waste Mgmt garbage	190.23	Mississippi River Trail (MRT)	
Waukon Tire Center repair	248.79	Earth Tech, Inc feasibility study	3,559.73
Deb Winke mileage	75.60	Assessor Fund Alltel	
General Supplemental Fund		cell phone	27.19
Alla Co Sheriff services	81.00	IKON copier maint	138.60
Dubuque Co Sheriff service	18.00	McLeod phone	13.32
Leschensky Ins premiums	92.00	Rite Price Office supplies	9.17
Well Grant Fund		Solutions annual agreement	3,100.00
U of I Hygienic Lab testing	141.00	Grand Total	407,625.85 wk 30
MH-DD Services Fund			
Abbott Law Office legal	61.50		
Alla Co Case Mgmt service	958.76		
Alla Co Sheriff transport	436.00		
Black Hawk Co Community Serv services	85.00		
Black Hawk-Grundy Mental Hlth outpatient	123.00		
Casey's gas	104.11		
Electronic Transactions Clear misc	1,547.00		
G & G Living Centers service	758.52		
Goodwill Ind of NEIA services	167.16		
Goodwill Ind of the Heartland services	751.20		
Hartig meds	456.14		
Jadec's supplies	52.00		
Stephanie Kuhn advocate	64.00		
Kwik Trip gas	37.11		
Makee Manor services	1,079.73		
Medical Associates hospital	1,720.00		
Rite Price Office supplies	383.07		
Spectrum Network services	84.00		
TASC services	15,059.75		
Treasurer, St of IA hospital	10,744.80		
Rural Services Basic Fund			
Bresnahan Oil fuel	538.22		
G & D Enterprises internet	19.95		
Harlan Hermeier multi-flora	50.00		
Clint Ingle multi-flora	38.81		
Ted& Cheryl McNally multi-flora	109.74		
Marilyn Moose multi-flora	58.24		
Richard & Debra Moose multi-flora	58.24		
Claude Schafer multi-flora	31.50		
Waste Mgmt garbage	16,872.85		
Secondary Road Fund			
ACE Comm phone	59.04		
Alla-Clayton Elec electric	171.38		
Alliant electric	466.94		
Alltel cell phones	85.26		
Anamosa State Penitentiary services	360.00		
Barco Municipal Prod stock	170.24		
Bartlett Electric Motor repairs	225.10		
Bear Creek Archeology services	8,349.74		
Benjegerdes Machine parts	306.72		
Bruening Rock Prod resurfacing proj	100,116.05		
Carquest parts	33.55		
City Laundering materials	146.66		
Croell Redi Mix flood repair	471.00		
Culligan service	45.00		
Cunningham Hdwe tools	15.91		
Diamond Mowers stock	255.89		
H&R Const Parts parts	3,059.27		
Hansmeier Truck & Trailer parts	1,046.22		
Hausladen's parts	378.40		
Hawkeye Truck & Trailer Sales parts	2,244.96		
Henderson Truck Equip parts	1,248.78		
Herman Bros loader tires	3,800.00		
IKON copier maint	293.93		
Drew Johnson mileage	57.60		
Kelly Concrete flood repair/equip	700.00		
Knife River Midwest rock/flood repairs	38,194.83		
LaCrosse Truck Center parts	2,141.37		
M C Service chainsaw repair	61.90		

Smedsrud, Nicole	10,694.00
Smedsrud, Timothy	1,142.91
Snitker, Lana D	6,685.42
Sorum, Burnell E	20,508.80
Stegen, Michelle	32,061.91
Strub, Jeremy C	2,981.84
Thorsten, Robert A	50,615.83
Timmerman, Delbert	610,057.72
Troendle, Steven R	39,106.08
Valley, Jerry C	46,934.05
Walsh, Kim J	38,681.91
Waters, Kimberly	14,800.00
Welch, Cole S	2,380.00
Welch, Laurie A	34,129.08
White, W. Richard	35,513.49
Wilkes, Steven J	2,043.62
Willger, Scott	36,471.11
Winke, Debbie O	40,191.62
Winke, Kenneth W	35,203.86
Winters, Barbara A	16,846.27
Wood, Sharon J	309.11
Young, Phillip A	777.96
Zuercher, Linda K	25,037.79
Grand Totals	3,214,191.19 wk 30

ORDINANCE NO. 642-08

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND GARBAGE COLLECTIONS FEE IN CHAPTER 106 OF THE POSTVILLE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES AND PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GARBAGE COLLECTION FUEL SURCHARGE.

BE IT ENACTED by the City Council of the City of Postville, Iowa:

SECTION 1. Section 106.08(1) of the Municipal Code of Ordinances is amended by deleting subsections A, B and C; and inserting the following:

A. Thirty-five (35) gallon garbage container - \$15.00 per month.

B. Sixty-four (64) gallon garbage container - \$18.00 per month.

C. Ninety-six (96) gallon garbage container - \$20.00 per month.

D. In addition to the above garbage collection fees, the City Council may by resolution adopt a garbage collection fuel surcharge which will be added to the monthly bill and collected in the same manner as the garbage collection fee.

SECTION 2. This ordinance shall become effective July 14, 2008.

Passed and approved this _14th_ day of _July_, 2008.

__Robert O. Penrod__
Mayor

ATTEST:
__Darcy Radloff__
City Clerk

ORDINANCE NO. 641-08

AN ORDINANCE TO CONTROL OPEN BURNING WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS AND PROVIDING PENALTIES.

BE IT ENACTED by the City Council of the City of Postville, Iowa:

SECTION 1. PURPOSE. The purpose of this ordinance is to control open burning within the City Limits to protect the health safety and welfare of the residents of the City of Postville.

SECTION 2. Section 105.05 of the Code of Ordinances is hereby deleted and the following substituted in lieu thereof:

105.05 OPEN BURNING RESTRICTED. No person shall allow, cause or permit open burning of combustible materials where the products of combustion are emitted into the open air without passing through a chimney or stack, except that open burning is permitted in the following circumstances:

Permit Not Required

A. Disaster Rubbish. The open burning of rubbish, including landscape waste, for the duration of the community disaster period in cases when an officially declared emergency condition exists.

B. Trees and Tree Trimmings. The open burning of trees and tree trimmings at a City-operated burning site, provided such burning is conducted in compliance with the rules established by the State Department of Natural Resources.

C. Flare Stacks. The open burning or flaring of waste gases, provided such open burning or flaring is conducted in compliance with applicable rules of the State Department of Natural Resources.

D. Other Types. The following types of burning are also exempt from the permit requirement.

(1) Fires used solely for the cooking out or barbecuing of food. These fires must be no larger than two feet in diameter, performed in an approved container constructed of steel, brick or masonry and be fueled with clean materials such as wood, charcoal natural or propane gas.

(2) Campfires, burning clean wood material, when in association with camping out or similar related recreational activities, provided that these fires are no larger than three feet in diameter. Burning after dark is permitted, provided the fire is supervised.

(3) Open burning in portable, outdoor fireplaces is permitted.

Permit Required. An Open Burning Permit from the City of Postville which is also signed by the Postville Fire Chief shall be required for the following types of open burning:

A. Recreational Fires. Open fires for cooking, heating, recreation which exceed the limits of subparagraph 1.E shown above.

B. Ceremonial Burning. Fires for ceremonial/recreational purposes such as American Legion

flag burning, pep rallies, religious ceremonies, etc. These fires must be under the legitimate sponsorship of a bona fide civic, fraternal, religious, educational, or similar organization and must comply with all other applicable provisions of this ordinance.

C. Training Fires. Fires set for the purpose of bona fide training of public or industrial employees in fire fighting methods, provided that such fires are conducted in compliance with rules established by the State Department of Natural Resources.

D. Any and all other open burning not otherwise excluded by subsection 1 herein.

Burning Restrictions.

A. Fires in approved containers must be located no closer than 15 feet from a structure.

B. Uncontained fires must be located no closer than 25 feet from a structure or combustible material. Conditions which could cause a fire to spread within 25 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.

Variance. Any person wishing to conduct open burning of materials not permitted herein may make application for a variance to the Postville City Council.

General Regulations.

A. The Fire Chief may prohibit any bonfire or outdoor rubbish fire in the Fire Chief deems such fires are hazardous to health or welfare.

B. Burning must be conducted during the dates specified on the permit.

C. Fires must be attended at all times during the burning. The attendant should have the burning permit in his or her possession at the time of burning.

D. Burning must be conducted in a safe and reasonable manner.

E. Burning is restricted to materials listed on the burning permit.

F. No combustible material may be brought onto a property from outside the property for the express purpose of burning, except for the use in general home heating or cooking.

G. No burning of any kind is allowed on the public right-of-way.

H. Rubber tires shall not be burned under any circumstances.

Violations of this ordinance shall be punished pursuant to Chapter 1.

Section 1.10 or as set forth in Chapter 3 of the Municipal Code of the City of Postville, Iowa.

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall be effective from and after its final passage, approval and publication as provided by law.

Passed and approved by the Council the _14th_ day of _July_, 2008.

__Robert O. Penrod__
Robert O. Penrod, Mayor

__Darcy Radloff__ :AT-TEST
Darcy Radloff, City Clerk

I certify that the foregoing was published as Ordinance No. 641-08 on the 23rd day of July, 2008.

__Darcy Radloff__
Darcy Radloff, City Clerk

Letter to the Editor

CONT. FROM PAGE 9

They did not ask for what happened to them. Most of the people who commented in the article probably have not even been to our City to see for themselves what has happened. Poor Mexicans working in toxic filth. Guess what all Cedar Rapidsians are working 14 to 16 hour days cleaning up their sewage, muck filled homes. One exception, they aren't getting paid. They aren't getting the promise of FEMA of the help they were saying, such as \$28,800.00 for people who lost everything, to find out you really get \$2400.00. They aren't getting the help from the City, instead they are getting screwed over by the city. If you own a home that was flooded, you might still owe 60,000 on, you still have to pay your mortgage, the banks and mortgages companies are refusing to take voluntary foreclosures, the city is not giving property tax breaks, you still owe them, and you have to find

another place to live, most are living in tents or campers. You also have to replace all that you lost. Oh yeah, plus many have lost their jobs because of the downtown and manufacturing have been devastated. So how do you expect us to feel sorry for people who are here illegally? Who choose to live here ILLEGALLY? I contacted to Postville Catholic Church to see if they could help their fellow parishioners here in Cedar Rapids, as the St. Patrick's Church and the St. Wensalaus church sustained major damage, plus many parishioners from St. Ludmila's were majorly affected. I felt if they could come to the rescue of so many illegals they could at least help good hard working Americans. Wrong. No response. I thought this was pathetic. Do you also know, that a contractor here in Cedar Rapids, who is doing work on the Linn County Jail, hired 2 white American Col-

lege Kids and the next day told them not to come back because they weren't union, but yet had dozens of Illegal Immigrants working? Now tell me again how we aren't losing jobs to these people. A week after the raid in Postville, in the cover of darkness, in our apartment complex, moved in a bunch of Hispanics. I thought this was odd, the time of night and the time of month. The next day a young man had a Postville shirt on. I thought this was bold as it was only a week after the raid. More and more moved into this 2 bedroom apartment. One night there were at least 30 or so in there. I was sick of it, they were spitting outside and taking up all the parking spaces. I made it clear to them that I was taking all their license plate numbers down and that I was originally from Postville. They tried to act like they did not understand me, well I told them I knew better, I knew they knew English and they could stop the stupid act. I called ICE. 2 weeks ago two of them got arrested by ICE at the local Shell station. More and more

new ones keep showing up. I keep calling ICE and I make it clear to them that I know where they came from and I will turn them in. One question I have is: They don't work how are they paying their \$600.00 a month rent, their utilities? They just bought a new minivan today? How? They never leave their apartment. Is this one that the Catholic church is paying for. If anyone would like to donate help to the good hard working people who really deserve your help you can go to www.corredorrecovery.org, this is a website set up for Cedar Rapids flood relief. These people really really need your help. Can you imagine having 8-10 foot of muck water in your house? It is the most awful I have ever seen in my life and hope to never see it again. Everyone says Cedar Rapids will be better, but I really don't think so. I don't see how. The city is not being fair to these people and yet spending millions on really unimportant things.

Jody Mitchell
Resident of Cedar Rapids



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The Iowa Utilities Board designated CenturyTel as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier or ETC within its service area for universal service purposes. The goal of universal service is to provide all Iowa citizens access to essential telecommunications services.

CenturyTel provides single party residential and business services. The rates range from \$9.00 to \$14.91 per month for residential customers and \$13.00 to \$15.41 per month for business customers. This includes access to long distance carriers, Emergency Services, Operator Services, Directory Assistance and Toll Blocking. Use of these services may result in added charges. Specific rates for your areas can be provided upon request.

CenturyTel offers qualified customers Lifeline and Link-Up Service if you meet certain low-income eligibility requirements. Lifeline Service includes a monthly discount up to \$8.25 for basic phone charges (including a \$6.50 waiver of the Federal Subscriber Line Charge), as well as toll blocking at no charge and a waiver of the deposit if toll blocking is selected by qualifying customers. Link-Up Service provides a discount on installation charges and charges to move service. Residents of Tribal Lands can also qualify for the additional Federal portion of the Lifeline program.

If you live in a CenturyTel service area, please call CenturyTel at 1-800-201-4099 or visit www.centurytel.com/lifeline with questions or to request an application for the Lifeline/Link-Up programs.

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